

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Upon entry of the amendment, the status of the claims will be as shown below. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claim in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method that enables an initial contractor at a first location that receives a request to manufacture a sheet metal product from a customer at a second location, to virtually examine the manufacturing work for the sheet metal product using a computer of the initial contractor, the method comprising:

the customer at the second location using a computer to send the request to manufacture the sheet metal product together with technical data for sheet metal product production to the computer of the initial contractor at the first location;

the computer of the initial contractor at the first location receiving the request to manufacture the sheet metal product from the customer at the second location;

the computer of the initial contractor at the first location prompting a computer of an outsourcing service center at a third location to login to the computer of the initial contractor at the first location ~~and to assist the initial contractor in planning of the manufacture of the sheet metal product;~~

the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location logging into ~~in to~~ the computer of the initial contractor at the first location, and ~~taking~~ assuming complete remote operational control over the computer of the initial contractor; and

the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location thus logged into the computer of the initial contractor at the first location, remotely operating the computer of the initial contractor based on instructions related to a processing edition conference from the initial

contractor, wherein the remote operating includes reviewing the technical data for sheet metal production from the customer and entering plans for in a manner to assist the initial contractor in planning the manufacture of the sheet metal product by the initial contractor; and  
the computer of the initial contractor at the first location transmitting an initial contractor cost estimate to manufacture the sheet metal product and an estimated delivery schedule, based on the entered plans, to the computer of the customer at the second location.

2. (Currently Amended) The processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 1,

wherein the remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor in connection with the processing edition conference includes creating a control program for a NC machine tool for producing the sheet metal product.

3. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 1,

wherein the remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor in connection with the processing edition conference includes calculating an outsourcing service center estimate of a cost to manufacture the sheet metal product.

4. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the initial contractor at the third location.

5. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.

6. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing system that enables an initial contractor at a first location that receives a request to manufacture a sheet metal product from a customer at a second location, to virtually examine the manufacturing work for the sheet metal product using ~~their~~ the computer of the initial contractor, said system comprising:

a computer of the customer at the second location configured to send the request to manufacture the sheet metal product together with technical data for sheet metal product production to the computer of the initial contractor at the first location;

the [[a]] computer of the initial contractor at the first location receiving the request to manufacture the sheet metal product from the customer at the second location configured to prompt a computer of an outsourcing service center to provide assistance to the initial contractor in planning of the manufacture of the sheet metal product for the customer;

wherein the computer of the initial contractor at the first location prompts the computer of the outsourcing service center at a third location to login to said computer of the initial

contractor ~~and to assist the initial contractor in the planning of the manufacture of the sheet metal product;~~

wherein the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location logs into the said computer of the initial contractor at the first location and takes ~~assumes~~ complete remote operational control over the computer of the initial contractor; ~~and~~

wherein the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location, logged into the ~~said~~ computer of the initial contractor at the first location, remotely operating the ~~operates~~ ~~said~~ computer of the initial contractor based on instructions related to a processing edition conference from the said initial contractor, wherein the remote operating includes reviewing the technical data for sheet metal production from the customer and entering plans for in a manner to assist the initial contractor in planning the manufacture of the sheet metal product; and

wherein the computer of the initial contractor at the first location transmits an initial contractor cost estimate to manufacture the sheet metal product and an estimated delivery schedule, based on the entered plans, to the computer of the customer at the second location.

7. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 2,

wherein the remotely operating ~~operation~~ of the computer of the initial contractor in connection with the processing edition conference includes calculating an outsourcing service center estimate of a cost to manufacture the sheet metal product.

8. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the initial contractor.

9. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 3, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by ~~the~~ remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the initial contractor.

10. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 7, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by ~~the~~ remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the initial contractor.

11. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.

12. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 3, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by ~~the~~ remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.

13. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 4, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by ~~the~~ remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.

14. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 7, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.

15. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating operation of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.

16. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 9, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating ~~operation~~ of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.

17. (Currently Amended) A processing program edition conferencing method according to claim 10, further comprising:

accumulating data obtained by remotely operating ~~operation~~ of the computer of the initial contractor at the first location in connection with the processing edition conference, in a memory of the computer of the outsourcing service center at the third location.